

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 06129 021056Z

15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01

AID-20 DRC-01 /111 W

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R 301230Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5957

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

CJCS

COMUSSAG

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 6129

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, CB

SUBJECT: CONSCRIPTION UPDATE

REF: PHNOM PENH 5684

1. SUMMARY. PHNOM PENH'S RECRUITMENT/CONSCRIPTION MACHINERY PRODUCED ONLY 393 MEN DURING THE WEEK APRIL 22-28, BUT PROVINCIAL RECRUITS AND INDUCTION OF "RALLIERS", INCLUDING WOMEN, SWELLED ACCESSIONS TO 2724. LTG SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ HAS MADE SOME CHANGES IN THE CONSCRIPTION MACHINERY AND IS PLANNING A MAY 2 ASSEMBLY AND PRESS CONFERENCE TO TRY TO REVITALIZE THE DRAFT CAMPAIGN NOW PUBLICLY UNDER HIS MANAGEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. THE CAPITAL'S DISTRICT OFFICES CONTINUED TO SEND DRAFT NOTICES OUT AT ABOUT 37 PER DAY. THE CITY GOVERNMENT PRODUCED, HOWEVER, ONLY 393 RECRUITS AND CONSCRIPTS THIS WEEK. THE PROVINCES ADDED 624 AND ANOTHER 1707 ACCESSIONS CAME FROM RECENT "RALLIERS". THESE FIGURES BRING THE TOTAL FOR 199

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 06129 021056Z

DAYS OF THE NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN TO 18,402 FOR PHNOM PENH

AND 30,733 COUNTRYWIDE.

3. RELIABLE FANK SOURCES TELL US THAT MOST OF THOSE RECRUITS CALLED "RALIERS," OF WHOM NEARLY 1,000 WERE SPONSORED BY ARTILLERY STAFF OFFICER BG LITTAYE SUON AIME ARE IN FACT REFUGEES. AT PRESIDENT LON NOL'S ORDER THEY HAVE ALL BEEN PROCESSED THROUGH NORMAL CHANNELS OF RECRUITMENT INCLUDING THE RECEPTION CENTER. A MEDTC OFFICER WHO SPOKE WITH THE RALLIER-RECRUITS FOUND THAT, OF 638 "RALLIERS" GIVEN UNIFORMS AND ENROLLED AT THE KAMBOL TRAINING CENTER, 153 ARE WOMEN AND 21 CLAIM TO BE 18 ARE CLEARLY YOUNGER.

4. BEGINNING APRIL 18 BG YONG YOC HANG ORDERED A HALT TO MIXED TEAMS ROUNDING UP DESERTERS AND DRAFT DODGERS PENDING FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FROM FANK COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF LTG SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ , THE NEW OVERALL CONSCRIPTION CHIEF. YONG YAC HANG TOLD US THAT SOSTHENE QUESTIONED WHETHER THE JOINT STAFF WHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS ACTIVITY AND THAT A DECISION WILL BE MADE ON MAY 3 OR 4.

5. PRESIDENT LON NOL REFUSED YONG YAC HANG'S REQUEST TO BE RELIEVED AS CONSCRIPTION CHIEF OF STAFF, AND GENERAL SOSTHENE HAS ISSUED ORDER CONFIRMING HIS RETENTION IN THIS POST.

6. GENERAL SOSTHENE MADE HIS DEBUT AS OVERALL MANAGER OF THE NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION EFFORT IN AN APRIL 27 MEETING WITH CONSCRIPTION STAFFERS. AFTER URGING STAFFERS TO REDOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS TO FILL THE TRAINING CENTERS, SOSTHENE , ANNOUNED THE FOLLOWING DECISIIONS:

A. THE MIXED CONSCRIPTION STAFF WILL BE KEPT AS IS BUT THE INTERMINISTERIAL RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE WILL BE REPLACED WITH A COMMITTEE OF ADVISORS. SOSTHENE SUBSEQUENTLY APPOINTED PRESIDENTIAL-ADVISOR UNG MUNG AS COUNSELOR AND PHNOM PENH GOVERNOR UN TRAMUCH, PHNOM PENH GARRISON COMMANDER BG SOK CHIEP, PHNOM PENH SPECIAL MILITARY REGION COMMANDER BG CHHIM CHHUON, AND MINISTER OF INTERIOR OFFICIAL UNG SU HAI KIM TENG TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE. COMMENT: BY REPLACING THE INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE, WHICH WAS A DECISION-MAKING BODY, WITH A COMMITTEE OF ADVISORS, SOSTHENE HAS TIGHTENED CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 06129 021056Z

COMMAND CONTROL OVER THE ORGANIZATION. THE NEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE, HOWEVER, IS COMPOSED OF INCOMPETENTS AND DOES NOT INCLUDE THE NATIONAL GENDARMERIE COMMANDER, THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR PERSONNEL AND OTHERS FROM THE INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE WHOSE DUTIES DIRECTLY IMPACT ON CONSCRIPTION.

B. THE JOINT STAFF'S MATERIEL NEEDS WILL BE MET.

C. THOSE NOT PERFORMING THEIR CONSCRIPTION DUTIES ADEQUATELY WILL BE FIRED. (SOSTHENE LATER GAVE YONG YOC

HANG VERBAL AUTHORITY TO FIRE ALL SLACKERS INCLUDING HEADS OF CITY WARDS, BUT HANG EXPRESSED UNWILLINGNESS TO TAKE SUCH STEPS WITHOUT PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL.)

D. THE ATTRIBUTIONS OF THE JOINT CONSCRIPTION STAFF WHICH ENCROACH ON THOSE OF OTHER STATE INSTITUTIONS WILL BE REVISED. COMMENT: SOSTHENE SEEMINGLY WISHES TO SHIFT RESPONSIBILITY FOR PICKING UP DRAFT DODGERS AND DESERTERS TO THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR.

7. GENERAL SOSTHENE HAS SUMMONED REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, UNIVERSITIES, SECONDARY SCHOOLS, TEACHERS GROUPS, STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS, RELIGIOUS SECTS AND BUSINESS ENTERPRISES TO A MEETING ON CONSCRIPTION MAY 2. ACCORDING TO CITY SECRETARY GENERAL CHEY HUN, SOSTHENE AT THIS MEETING WILL REVIEW THE GENERAL MILITARY SITUATION AFTER FOUR YEARS OF WAR, EXPLAIN THE NEED FOR MORE TROOPS, APPEAL TO THE CITY GOVERNMENT TO HELP WITH A RENEWED CONSCRIPTION EFFORT, AND URGE CITIZENS TO VOLUNTEER TO FULFILL THEIR MILITARY SERVICE OBLIGATION. AFTER MAY 2, ENFORCEMENT OF THE DRAFT WILL GO AHEAD FULL BLAST, CHEY HUN DECLARED.
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